pertaining to Science and Technology. The report has been given to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for further action.

Sharing of feed of important national events by Doordarshan

*170. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has stated that sharing of feed of events of national importance including sports with Doordarshan would have a detrimental impact on private TV channels; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had received such a representation from the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) regarding mandatory sharing of feeds of sporting events of national importance by private channels with Prasar Bharati. The Government had also engaged the Sports Channels & Sports Rights management companies in a dialogue to evolve and optimize consensus regarding mandatory sharing of terrestrial telecast rights of sporting events of national importance by the rights holders with Prasar Bharati. This issue formed a part of the Ministry of I&B's proposal on Downlinking Guidelines. The Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted for the purpose of considering the proposal regarding introduction of downlinking guidelines examined this issue and made certain recommendaitons in this regard. Incorporating the views of the GOM, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had approached the Cabinet for approval of the downlinking guidelines. The Cabinet approved the proposal on 20.10.2005. The downlinking guidelines were issued on 11.11.2005 and are available on the website of the Ministry *i.e.* www.mib.nic.in.

For the purpose of ensuring the widest availability of viewing in India, on free to air basis, of sporting events, held in India and abroad and of national and international importance one of the conditions prescribed under the downlinking guidelines is that "all sports channels/sports rights management companies having TV broadcasting rights shall with immediate effect share their feed with Prasar Bharati for national and international sporting events of national importance, held in India or

abroad, for terrestrial transmission and DTH broadcasting (free-to-air) under prescribed conditions". Similar provisions prevail in many other countries.

Strengthening of basic education and research

*171. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission had formulated a scheme for strengthening basic science education and research within the existing university system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the UGC plans to create positions of research scientists at the levels of lecturer, reader and professor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESORUCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) A Task Force was set up by the Government, for strengthening basic science education and research within the existing university system. The recommendations, *inter-alia*, include to create 1000 positions of research scientists at various levels equivalent to that of Lecturer, Reader and Professor. The report has been given to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for further action.

Monitoring of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*172. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to plug the gaps in monitoring Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, he has suggested a new system whereby quality indices of the programme would be monitored every quarter;

(b) whether this would be over and above the existing system of monitoring by forty organization;

(c) if so, the main features thereof; and

(d) to what extent it would be helpful in monitoring Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?